**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) Blast furnace installation, comprising: ~~with~~ a blast furnace in a shaft furnace configuration and of a free-standing construction; ~~without frame as well as correlated installation parts such as~~ a hot blast generating device~~,~~; a burdening~~,~~; and a pouring bay, for continuous smelting of at least partially treated iron ore to hot metal, ~~wherein~~ the blast furnace (10) having ~~with~~ a frame diameter of between 5 and 10 m and ~~is of a compact configuration with~~ the features:

(a) a self-supporting blast furnace armor construction wherein an ~~the~~ entire upper blast furnace construction of the blast furnace (10) is supported on the blast furnace armor (12), the upper blast furnace construction including ~~with~~ a top closing device (14) configured as a revolving chute with a fixedly installed slant angle without tilting mechanism and in working connection with a

radially movable throat armor (17) arranged at a throat of the blast furnace, a gas removal pipe (15), and safety valves (16) including pressure compensation ~~— is supported on the blast furnace armor (12)~~;

b) in a region of the frame ~~area~~, in ~~the~~ zones of a belly of the blast furnace, a waist of the blast furnace, and a lower shaft, water-cooled cooling elements of a material having high thermal conductivity are arranged between the refractory furnace wall (11) and the blast furnace armor (12);

c) for tapping of the hot metal only one tap hole (18) is installed on the furnace (10) ~~with only one set of tap hole plugging and drilling machines~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) Blast furnace installation according to claim 1, wherein a vertical conveyor (20) for conveying the raw materials into the blast furnace is arranged directly adjacent to the blast furnace (10), at a spacing from a ~~the~~ center axis of the blast furnace of substantially ~~approximately~~ 25 to 35 m, ~~— a vertical conveyor (20) for conveying the raw materials (iron ore, reduction agents, additives) into the blast furnace is arranged~~

and the burdening (30) is arranged ~~that~~ directly adjacent to the vertical conveyor (20) ~~the burdening (30) is arranged~~.

4. (Currently amended) Blast furnace installation according to claim 3, wherein the burdening (30) has ~~is reduced to~~ a working and material storage volume of ~~preferably~~ 3 to 4 hours.

5. (Currently amended) Blast furnace installation according to claim 1, wherein the blast furnace (10) and the burdening (30) are connected to one another via an ~~the installed~~ automation and control device.

6. (Currently amended) Blast furnace installation according to claim 1, wherein the pouring bay (50) is configured and arranged directly adjacent to the blast furnace (10) such that by means of a gutter system (52) ~~the~~ crude iron is directly transported into correspondingly large ladles (51) and ~~the~~ slag is directly transported into at least one of a slag blanket (53) and ~~and/or into~~ a slag granulation device (54).

7. (Currently amended) Blast furnace installation according to claim 1, wherein the hot blast generating device (40) includes ~~is~~

~~operated preferably with~~ only two hot blast apparatus (41).

8. (Canceled)